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PROCEEDINGS

OF A

NATIONAL CONVENTION

FOR THE

PROMOTION OF EDUCATION

IN THE

UNITED STATES,

HELD AT THE CITY HALL, IN THE

CITY OF WASHINGTON,

MAY 6, 7, 8, 1840.

WASHINGTON:

F. FORCE, PRINTER.

1840.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

STEPHEN CHAPIN, D. D., *President Columbian College.*

FRANCIS S. KEY, Esq.

PETER FORCE, Esq., *Mayor of the City of Washington.*

THOMAS SEWALL, M. D.

BENJAMIN HALLOWELL, Esq.

JOHN P. DURBIN, D. D., *President of Dickinson College.*

A. DALLAS BACHE, L. L. D., *President of Girard College.*

PROCEEDINGS.

AT a meeting of the National Convention of the Friends of Education, held pursuant to public notice, at the City Hall, Washington, May 6, 1840: On motion of the Hon. WILLIAM COST JOHNSON, President A. D. BACHE was called to the chair.

The Convention then received the credentials of the Delegates in attendance, and was organized by the unanimous election of the following officers, viz:—

PRESIDENT.

A. D. BACHE, *President of Girard College, Philadelphia.*

VICE PRESIDENTS.

Hon. WILSON LUMPKIN, *of Georgia.*

Rev. S. CHAPIN, *D. D., President of Columbian College.*

Hon. WM. COST JOHNSON, *of Maryland.*

JOHN DAWSON, Esq., *of Madison College, Pennsylvania.*

SECRETARIES.

Professor THOMAS SEWALL, *M. D., of Washington D. C.*

BENJAMIN HALLOWELL, *of Alexandria, D. C.*

The following were the Delegates in attendance :

Rev. S. Chapin,

Prof. Thomas Sewall, M. D. }

Prof. J. O. B. Chaplin, A. M. }

Columbian College.

- Hon. Wilson Lumpkin, *University of Georgia*.
 Hon. Daniel Sturgeon, }
 John Dawson, Esq., } *Madison College, Pa.*
 Hon. Wm. L. Storrs, *Wesleyan University, Middle-*
town, Conn.
 John McLean, N. Y., } *New-Brighton, Beaver County,*
 Hon. Thos. Henry, } *Pennsylvania.*
 Littleton Dennis Teackle, Esq., *Somerset County, Md.*
 Rev. Dr. Hawley, *Washington, D. C.*
 Rev. S. G. Bulfinch, }
 Chas. H. Nourse, } *Teachers' Institute, Washing-*
 O. N. Stoddart, } *ton, D. C.*
 F. Gallagher, Esq., *Washington Lyceum, Baltimore.*
 President A. D. Bache, *Delegate from the Controllers*
of the Public Schools of the 1st School District, Pa.
 Benjamin Hallowell, }
 Hugh Smith, Esq., } *Alexandria Lyceum.*
 George H. Carter, Esq., *Wheeling Virginia.*
 Peter Force, Esq., *Mayor of the City of Washington.*
 Rev. Edward Y. Higbee, *New-York.*
 Rev. Mr. Davis, *Charlotte Hall, Md.*
 Samuel McKenney, Esq., *Georgetown, D. C.*
 Rev. Frederick W. Boyd, A. M., *Athenean Society of*
Maine.
 Dr. S. Maupin, *Principal of Richmond Academy, Rich-*
mond, Va.
 Rev. Wm. McLain, *Washington, D. C.*
 G. W. Stinson, *Norristown, Pennsylvania.*
 Nathan Thorp, } *Franklin Lyceum, Rahway, New-*
 Jacob R. Shotwell, } *Jersey.*
 Dr. Thomas P. Jones, *Washington, D. C.*
 Francis S. Key, *Washington, D. C.*

Hon. Wm. Cost Johnson, *Maryland.*

John Boyle, Esq., *Washington, D. C.*

Samuel Whitcomb, *Springfield, Vermont.*

On motion of HON. WM. COST JOHNSON :

Resolved, That those gentlemen, now in the City, who feel an interest in the objects of the Convention, be requested to leave their names with the Secretary, and become members of the Convention.

On motion,

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed, of which the President of the Convention be Chairman, to propose subjects for the consideration of this Convention.

The following gentlemen were appointed, in accordance with this Resolution, viz: President A. D. BACHE, Chairman, Rev. S. CHAPIN, D. D., FRANCIS S. KEY, JOHN DAWSON, and BENJAMIN HALLOWELL.

On motion,

Resolved, That when the Convention adjourns, it adjourns to meet to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

On motion,

Resolved, That this day's proceedings of the Convention be published in the two City papers.

A proposed Memorial to Congress was presented to the Convention, and referred to the Committee appointed to prepare business.

The Convention then adjourned till to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *May 7, 1840.*

The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

The following gentlemen attended as members of the

Convention, in addition to those whose names were registered yesterday, viz:—

John Janney, Esq., *Leesburg, Va.*

Rev. Herman Norton, *Columbus, New-Jersey.*

Samuel M. Janney, *Loudoun County, Va.*

Hon. John Edwards, *Delegate from Delaware County Lyceum, Pennsylvania.*

S. F. Headley, *Berwick Lyceum, Columbia County, Pennsylvania.*

Rev. J. P. Durbin, *President of Dickinson College, Pennsylvania.*

George J. Abbott, *Teachers' Institute, Washington, D. C.*

Samuel Lawrence, Esq., *Lowell, Massachusetts.*

Dr. Harvey Lindsly, *Washington, D. C.*

Dr. Henry King, *St. Louis, Missouri.*

Hon. Enos Hooke, *Madison College, Pennsylvania.*

Hon. Millard Fillmore, *Buffalo, N. Y.*

John Howard Payne, *New-York.*

Don Mariano Cubi i Soler, *Prof. Mod. Lan. Louisiana College.*

Giles F. Yates, *Founder of Schenectady Lyceum, New-York.*

Hon. George W. Toland, *Philadelphia Lyceum*

Rev. O. B. Brown, *Washington, D. C.*

James Gill, Esq., *Marysville, Ohio.*

Hon. William Symington, *Pennsylvania.*

Hon. Robert Hallowell Gardiner, *of Gardiner, Maine.*

Samuel Harrison Smith, Esq., *Washington, D. C.*

Robert D. Clarke, *Brownsville, Pennsylvania.*

Dr. H. F. Condict, *Washington, D. C.*

Robert F. Stanton, *Natchez, Mississippi.*

Henry H. Dent, Esq., }
 Dr. Frederic Hall, }
 Rev. John Davis, }
 Washington, D. C.
 James McVean, *Georgetown, D. C.*
 E. Putnam, Esq., *Milton, N. H.*

The Committee appointed to propose subjects for the consideration of the Convention reported, through their Chairman, a series of Resolutions, which were eloquently supported by FRANCIS S. KEY, Esq., the Rev. S. CHAPIN, the Rev. J. P. DURBIN, and several other gentlemen; were amended, the blanks filled, and adopted to read as follows, viz :

1. *Resolved*, That the Committee who reported these resolutions be requested to invite members from the different delegations in Congress to address the Convention, at a session to be held on Saturday evening, at eight o'clock, in relation to the systems and progress of public instruction in their States. The session to be held in the Hall of the House of Representatives, if it can be obtained, otherwise in the church on 4½ street, kindly offered for that purpose by the Rev. Mr. McLain.

2. *Resolved*, That a Committee of three members be appointed to make an appeal in behalf of the National Convention of the Friends of Education, now in session in Washington, to the People of the United States, in relation to the vital importance to the Republic of a more general diffusion of popular Education.

3. *Resolved*, That the Convention recommend to the Friends of Education in the several States of the Union, the holding of State Conventions, or the formation of Education Societies, with branches over the States, for the purpose of exciting a more general attention to the

importance of universal education, and to improvements in existing systems or institutions for public instruction.

4. *Resolved*, That it is expedient to raise funds from the friends of public Education, for the purpose of employing an agent for one year to collect information upon the subject of public instruction in our Country, to visit the Legislatures of the several States, when in session, and, in general, to awaken public attention to this important subject; and, also, to make such publications as may be calculated to promote the cause of public instruction.

5. *Resolved*, That in furtherance of the objects contemplated by the foregoing resolution, a collection be taken up at the evening meeting to be held in Washington, and that a Committee of two members of this Convention be appointed to take charge of making the collection during the sitting of the Convention here, and also a Committee of ———, to make similar collections in other cities of the Union, either personally or by correspondence.

6. *Resolved*, That an Executive Committee of five be appointed, with authority, on obtaining a sufficient sum, to appoint an agent, and assign his duties, and to publish and distribute suitable original or selected articles in relation to Education, and that this Executive Committee be authorized to appoint a Treasurer, to take charge of the funds so collected.

And whereas the importance of Schools for the Education of Teachers is constantly increasing with the increased demands for public instruction in the United States; therefore,

7. *Resolved*, That a Committee of three members of this Convention, of whom the President of the Convention shall be Chairman, be appointed to prepare for the next general meeting of the Friends of Education, a report on the organization of Seminaries for Common School Teachers in Europe and the United States, and the results already obtained from them.

The same Committee reported the following Resolutions, which, after discussion, were referred again to the Committee that reported them, viz :

8. *Resolved*, That it is expedient to hold a Convention of Delegates from Lyceums, Literary Institutions, bodies connected with public instruction, or meetings of the Friends of Education in the United States, at Philadelphia, on the second Monday of May next.

9. *Resolved*, That a Committee of five members be appointed, of which the President of the Convention shall be Chairman, to make suitable arrangements for holding the General Convention of the Friends of Education proposed in the foregoing Resolution.

On motion of FRANCIS S. KEY, Esq.:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the members of the Convention to collect from the Teachers of Schools and the friends of popular Education in their respective neighborhoods, such funds as they may be willing to contribute to the objects stated in the 3d and 4th Resolutions, and remit the same to the Treasurer to be appointed by the Executive Committee.

The Committee to whom was referred the memorial to Congress, which was yesterday laid before the Convention, report, that finding in said memorial matters of detail which they do not think come within the pro-

vince of the Convention, they recommend no special action thereon.

Which report was unanimously adopted by the Convention.

The Committee appointed under the second Resolution consists of President *A. D. Bache*, Rev. Mr. *Durbin*, and Rev. *S. Chapin*.

On motion,

Resolved, That when the Convention adjourns, it adjourns to meet at this Hall to-morrow afternoon, at four o'clock.

The Convention then adjourned.

WASHINGTON, *May 8, 1840.*

At four o'clock, P. M., the Convention met in accordance with adjournment.

The following gentlemen attended, as members of the Convention, in addition to those whose names have been previously registered, viz :

Dr. Charles Douglass, }
John McLeod, } *Washington.*

C. Newell, *President of Teachers' Institute, Md.*

On motion, the Committee under the fifth Resolution, adopted yesterday, was increased to three members.

The chair then named *Francis S. Key*, *Benjamin Hallowell*, and Dr. *Thomas Sewall*, to constitute said Committee.

The Committee appointed on the subject, produced an address to the People of the United States in rela-

tion to the vital importance to the Republic of a more general diffusion of popular Education, which was adopted.

On motion of President A. D. BACHE :

Ordered, That the Executive Committee be directed to report to the next annual meeting of the National Convention of the Friends of Education.

On motion of FRANCIS S. KEY, Esq. :

Resolved, That the Address of the Convention be published in the newspapers of this City, and that the publishers of other papers throughout the United States, friendly to the cause of popular Education, be requested to copy the same.

On motion of President A. D. BACHE :

Resolved, That the Thanks of this Convention be presented to the Mayor and City Authorities of Washington, for the Hall kindly furnished for the accommodation of the Convention.

On motion of BENJAMIN HALLOWELL :

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to make inquiry concerning the operations and practicability of the Manual Labour School System in our country, and report thereon at the next annual meeting of the National Convention of the Friends of Education.

On motion, then adjourned to meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives to-morrow evening, at eight o'clock.

The Committee to whom was referred the preparation of an appeal to the People of the United States in

favour of Universal Education, beg leave respectfully to report the following.

A. D. BACHE, }
J. P. DURBIN, } *Committee.*
S. CHAPIN, }

Washington, May 8, 1840.

FELLOW-CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES:

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION of the Friends of EDUCATION in the United States desire to submit to you a brief statement of their views of the *importance of the cause*, the interests of which they have met to promote, and of the *means by which they hope to aid its progress*.

The institutions of our country have for their basis the virtue and intelligence of the people. If the people be wanting in morals, or unenlightened, the essential condition of our existence as a republic is not fulfilled, and the consequence is inevitable. The moral and intellectual education of the children of the republic is requisite to the formation of virtuous and intelligent citizens, and hence indispensable to the existence of a republic. The history of the commonwealths of ancient and modern times teaches plainly the important lesson that the decline of public morals has been accompanied by a corresponding decay of republican institutions. It is in vain to look for any particular defects in their various organizations to explain their downfall; in all the systems, the citizens have assumed in a greater or less degree to be capable of self-government; and when this ceased to be the fact, the destruction of their institutions was heard. In countries where the sovereignty is confined to one, or to a few, education may be a luxury to the many, but where the people is

sovereign it is a necessity. The Constitution of the REPUBLIC OF VAUD places, as first of its fundamental articles, the equality of every citizen in the eye of the law, and deduces, as a consequence, that his duty to the State requires him to be educated. Some of the monarchies of the old world present the curious spectacle of the general education of the people. This is wisely done ; for the authorities may well prefer to direct and control the bent of the mind in the progress of its development, rather than to leave it uncultivated to its own impulses, or to action upon it without. And shall the sovereign here, the People, be less wise, less careful in preserving the palladium of liberty committed to them by their fathers, and in providing for its preservation by their children ? In our country, the people are directly interested in education, if they would duly exercise their rights as citizens, and preserve themselves from the worst of tyranny—that over the mind. They are directly interested in the universal diffusion of the means of *physical education*, by which health is secured : of *moral and religious education*, by which the passions and propensities are regulated and controlled, the affections cultivated, the happiness of the individual here and hereafter, and the well-being of society essentially promoted : of *intellectual education* by which the whole mind is cultivated, the forms of perception and reason expanded, the memory and judgment improved, and individual independence of thought secured. The best inheritance of a parent, in any situation of life, to his child, is a good education ; and to secure this to him many a poor man toils, and is rewarded in the return of affection which he receives, and in the delight of wit-

nessing the success in life of the child to whom he had furnished the means and instrument of that success in his education.

To a considerable portion of our fellow-citizens, these remarks, no doubt, appear trite: *they* need no urging to establish public schools, and to spread instruction throughout the sphere of their influence. Would that there was no citizen of the Union living in a practical disregard of the importance of education! It still continues to be a melancholy fact, that the proportion of children in the republic of the United States, fully receiving instruction, falls short of that in many despotisms of the old world. What a spectacle is thus presented, of a soil susceptible of high cultivation, and of producing a rich harvest of usefulness, abandoned to the growth of noxious weeds, to yield, it may be, hereafter, a bitter crop of individual debasement, social disorganization, and political anarchy. While we thus neglect the means by which our individual and national liberties are to be perpetuated, we directly impede the progress of liberal institutions throughout the world: the sacred fire left in our charge will not long blaze a beacon light to other nations, but by our neglecting to supply it with the materials essential to its support, must burn more and more dimly, and finally expire. In some parts of the United States common schools are not at all provided by law, and even the most ordinary means of instruction are not accessible to the children of the citizens; in others, legislative enactments have provided common schools, but the instruction given in them is inadequate; in a few only is the onward and efficient movement, characteristic of our country, found to apply

to the cause of education. It would be easy to show, from facts not to be contested, that the progress of our nation in wealth would be more sure, less limited to particular portions of the community and particular sections of the country, were education more generally diffused throughout the land ; for the law is universal, that in proportion as the morals and intelligence of a people are more cultivated, the rewards of enterprise, energy, and industry, are the more sure. To the people of the United States, then, concerned in providing for their children the means of education, to train them up as virtuous, enlightened, and free citizens, the Convention would earnestly appeal, believing that *they* have only to will it, that our country may become an example to nations, of the appreciation in which free-men hold the blessings of education.

The Convention are aware, that in the course of this appeal to their fellow-citizens, they have assumed the existence of wants which the people in various sections of the United States may not feel ; that the general impressions which influence their minds may not be transferable to others. They have therefore undertaken to collect statistics from various parts of the Union, to prove by numbers, the existence of these deficiencies, and that so plainly as to put it beyond cavil or dispute. They intend to use every effort to raise funds for the employment of an agent to collect statistics on the state of education, and to diffuse this and other information in addresses and through the press. In this effort they trust that they will receive the support and co-operation of those who, having light, wish that the same may shine upon others ; who, having means, will

freely dispense them in so good a cause. By this measure, by circulating the addresses of the members of the delegations in Congress, who have favoured them with statements relating to education in their several States, by the appointment of Committees to collect information on specific subjects, and by providing for holding future Conventions, at which this information may be received and widely circulated, the Convention at Washington hope that their meeting may have advanced the noble cause in which they are engaged.

In those portions of our country where common schools are in existence, and public attention has been turned for some time to their results, the want of teachers of a high character is strongly felt. To direct the mind of one who is to become the citizen of a republic, needs very considerable capacity and knowledge. The teacher himself must be taught and trained, before he is fit to teach and train others ; and one of the methods which has been resorted to for accomplishing this, is by the establishment of schools for teachers. Information is wanted in regard to the organization and results of this class of schools, and the Convention have taken steps to procure it, and to diffuse it extensively among their fellow-citizens.

Such are the provisions made for future action, the success of which must depend upon the response made to their appeal by the Convention to their fellow-citizens.

In conclusion, the Convention commend the cause in which they have been engaged to the foundation of all light, the benevolent disposer of all hearts.

SATURDAY EVENING, *May 9, 1840.*

According to the previous adjournment, the Convention assembled in the Hall of Representatives, at the Capitol, at eight o'clock, at which a considerable concourse of strangers and citizens were present, and who manifested a deep interest in the proceedings of the evening.

The meeting was called to order by the President of the Convention, Doctor A. D. BACHE, who opened the services by an appropriate address, in which he pointed out the objects of the Convention, and introduced the speakers from the different States.

The following contains a brief outline of the different addresses, as reported by Mr. Brooks for the New-York Evening Express.

NEW-YORK.

Mr. FILLMORE, of New-York, having first been called upon as one of the Representatives of the Empire State, addressed the Convention. The remarks of Mr. Fillmore were mainly statistical. We have, said he, in New-York, one University, four Colleges, many Academies, and ten thousand Common Schools. In New-York, as early as 1795, \$50,000 was appropriated for five years. This appropriation never fulfilled the purposes designed. The next movement made, in behalf of Schools, was in 1805, when 500,000 acres of land, or the sales from this domain, were appropriated for the benefit of Common Schools. No distribution took place, under this law, until 1814. In 1812, the first law was passed which established Common Schools; Superintendents were appointed, Committees, Examiners, &c., &c.

In 1820, the number of scholars taught was 325,000 ; in 1830, 409,000 ; in 1835, 540,000 ; in 1839, 557,259. In 1815, there were but a fraction over 2,000 schools ; now there are more than 10,000.

Mr. Fillmore also spoke of the policy of the 800 townships in New-York, which policy was, to make a partial provision for Common Schools, and to require a tax, or voluntary contributions, or similar provisions for the remaining necessary support. The system in the fifty wards of the several cities was different. The best policy, in the opinion of those who had charge of the subject, was to make no greater appropriation than would stimulate private enterprise. Mr. Fillmore, in continuing his statistics, remarked that the State paid about one-fourth of the expense. The education of each child was \$3 20 paid to teachers. The wages of teachers varied, as stated in an Annual Report, from \$11 a month to \$16, between the years 1831 and 1837.

Mr. Fillmore stated, that since the establishment of Free Schools in his own city, Buffalo, double the number of scholars had been taught, at half the expense for the number taught. Mr. Fillmore closed with some general remarks of an interesting character.

KENTUCKY.

Mr. UNDERWOOD, of Kentucky, followed Mr. Fillmore. Mr. Underwood said that he heartily approved of the object of the meeting. The morals of the country depended upon the education of the children, and the object of the Convention was, or should be, dear to every patriot.

Mr. Underwood said that he had not the documen-

tary evidence before him in regard to Education in his own State, and must therefore speak from recollection. His own State, or many sections of it, was too much in the log cabin condition to be much advanced in common school education. Mr. Underwood spoke of the Colleges of his State, which were some half dozen in number, and of the County Seminaries, which were the next class of institutions. Common Schools were recently established, and in school districts under the guardianship of county officers, who appointed commissioners, and who collected the means of paying the teachers. Mr. Underwood said that Kentucky intended to provide means to those school districts, as in the State of New-York. Property was taxed by an *ad valorem* process, and each district was allowed to make a tax, according to the value of property, for the support of schools. Mr. Underwood stated briefly the several provisions of the laws of Kentucky touching the common schools of that State.

NORTH-CAROLINA.

Mr. STANLY, of North-Carolina, responded for North-Carolina. He said that the school fund of North-Carolina exceeded \$1,000,000; that it was invested in bank stock, in rail-road stock, and in public works, which yielded the amount named. He regretted to state, however, that North-Carolina was not where she should be, and he hoped, upon another occasion, to be able to state better things for his State than he could now state. The emigration from North-Carolina was large, and the State suffered from it; besides, there were too many bachelors at home, and bachelors were not friends to the cause of common school education.

OHIO.

Mr. GOODE, of Ohio, member of the House, gave an interesting account of the Schools, Academies, and Colleges, in Ohio. There were Colleges there, and Academies, Primary and Common Schools. Every sixteenth section of land, under an ordinance in regard to public lands, was appropriated for Common Schools. This afforded considerable aid, and, with the school tax, made a handsome fund. The children in Ohio were very numerous, and the Common School system there was in a flourishing condition, and never so promising as now. Mr. Goode spoke also on the strict system adopted in Ohio in regard to the examination of teachers by School Committees. The New-England system appears to have been adopted.

NEW-JERSEY.

Mr. RANDOLPH responded for New-Jersey. He commenced by quoting the remark of Judge Reed, of Connecticut, "that during a very extensive practice, he had never seen a son of Connecticut that could not read and write." He could not now say as much of New-Jersey, but he hoped the time was not far distant when he might. The State of New-Jersey, Mr. Randolph said, was well provided with High Schools and Colleges. She made some provision for Common Schools. Twenty thousand dollars was appropriated among the several Counties, and the Counties themselves were allowed to make what extra provision they thought proper. Mr. Randolph said his State suffered much from the want of Common Schools, and school teachers of common sense. Teachers were not as well qualified as they should be, &c. There was

reason to believe that the character of the Common Schools would improve when teachers were better paid, and held their proper rank in society.

MARYLAND.

Mr. WM. COST JOHNSON said he should occupy the time of the Convention but for a moment, and he regretted it was but for a moment. He regretted to state that in Maryland no annual reports were made, and that there was no record sent to the Legislature, and consequently no means of official information. The State appropriated \$100,000 to the several Counties annually, for public schools. This fund was raised from bank taxes, trust funds, corporation taxes, &c. The amount for which the people were taxed was small. Superadded to this, \$20,000 were appropriated to Colleges and Academies. The College or Academy educated gratuitously one scholar for every \$100 appropriated. Mr. Johnson said that the State of Maryland had done much, but had much to do. A new interest had been awakened in Common Schools recently, and Maryland, unlike North-Carolina, had many friends of education even in her bachelor population. The ladies of Maryland, too, smiled upon the cause of education, and did great good by their smiles and encouragement.

Mr. Stanly interrupted Mr. Johnson, and remarked that the ladies of North-Carolina also smiled upon education, and "upon bachelors too," he added. [Mr. Johnson is almost a hopeless bachelor, I learn; and the allusion was, therefore, very appropriate.]

Mr. Johnson continued his remarks, and closed with a strong appeal in behalf of the objects of the Convention.

MAINE.

ROBERT HALLOWELL GARDINER, Esq., of Maine, gave, briefly, the School system of his State. There was a bank tax which amounted to over \$30,000 per annum, and a land tax which increased the fund to an extent which enabled every one between the ages of four and twenty-one to attend school during the whole or a part of the year. Every inhabitant was taxed forty cents for the support of Common Schools. Mr. Gardiner gave a good account of the Common Schools of Maine, but a poor account of the Colleges of Maine. Some of the people of Maine, in the spreading spirit of radicalism, regarded Colleges as aristocratic institutions. The feeling was so extensive, that the State had withdrawn its aid from the two Colleges of the State. One in consequence was gasping, and the other suffering.

ENGLAND AND IRELAND.

Mr. GURNEY, of England, who was present, was called upon by the President of the Convention. The education of Great Britain was almost altogether voluntary. Something was done in England, and less in Ireland. Mr. Gurney spoke of the influence of Lord Brougham, and his attempts to establish a national system of education. The State Religion was a serious obstacle to this system, but he hoped it would be removed, and a more extensive system be adopted. Mr. Gurney also commented upon some impressions he had received in travelling through this country. The local and voluntary efforts to increase knowledge among men delighted him much. He was pleased also with the School Fund System, and with almost every thing

he had seen and heard since he set foot upon our shores. Mr. Gurney spoke briefly, and in a manner that elicited the close attention of the Convention. The reader will be interested in Mr. Gurney, from the fact that he is a brother of Mrs. ELIZABETH FRY, an interesting and talented authoress.

After some appropriate remarks in conclusion, and in behalf of the Convention, and contribution to aid in procuring a fund for a National Agent, the President adjourned the meeting, to meet again in Philadelphia, in May, 1841.



